

Co-chairs Senator Dembrow and Representative Power
Members of the Joint committee on Carbon Reduction:

My name is Sarah Deumling. I am the owner, along with my three children, and the manager of Zena Forest LLC, a 1400 acre family forest business in Polk County.

I am writing in support of HB 2020 which I see as an important step forward in protecting Oregon's natural resource land. We have been watching with increasing concern over the past decade the effects of climate change on our forest. On the more difficult sites, often southwest exposures, the Douglas Fir trees have been dying at an alarming rate. On several sites it was so severe that, three years ago, we clear cut 30 yr. old dead and dying toothpicks and replanted nearly 50 acres to more drought resistant species. This was very costly and cannot be sustained financially. Due to the repeated drought years we have more severe insect and disease problems in the stressed trees. Each year we find new invasive species that threaten the old ecosystem we have been used to working with. Each year I find new areas of dead fir trees.

I realize that HB 2020 may come with some costs for natural resource managers but I'm convinced that those costs pale in comparison to the costs of doing nothing to stop or mitigate climate change. The threat of climate change is so imminent, actually already here in many ways, so dire and so urgent that even an imperfect bill in 2019 is ever so much better than no bill. Please do all you can to pass a Clean Energy Jobs bill this year and in so doing encourage all of us to do our part to keep Oregon beautiful and productive for future generation.

One more thing! Please do all you can to stop HB 2152 which, if it passes, will do more harm to family forestry than any other bill proposed this year. We would be out of business almost immediately.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your service.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling
Zena Forest LLC
Rickreall, Oregon